

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION AND VERIFICATION FORMS

SCHOOL YEAR 2009 - 2010

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This packet contains:

Required information that *must* be provided to households:

- Letter to Households
- Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application

Verification of eligibility information materials:

- Notification of Selection for Verification of Eligibility
- Letter of Verification Results

Optional

The pages are designed to be printed on 8½" by 11" paper. Some pages may be printed front and back. You will need to identify the benefits that are offered in your school, such as afterschool snacks. Blank lines indicate where you need to insert your school/facility's specific information. For example, you must include your school's s no-charge telephone number for verification assistance on the verification materials. If you make additional changes, you must submit your application package to your State agency for approval.

This prototype application package includes information regarding the exclusion of housing allowance for those in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative. If this is not pertinent to your school/facility, please modify as appropriate.

If you have questions, contact:

DHHS/DCCECE/Special Nutrition Programs
Attn: Shelia Bailey, Program Manager/NSLP/SFSP
P O Box 1437 – Slot S155
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
or call
1-800-482-5850, Extension 6828869 or locally at (501) 682-8869

School District Letterhead

Dear Parent/Guardian:
Children need healthy meals to learn offers
healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$; lunch costs \$ Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$ for breakfast and \$ for lunch.
1.Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. <u>Use one Free and Reduced Price School</u> <u>Meals Application for all students in your household.</u> We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to:
School Name:
Address:City, State, Zip:
2. Who can get free meals? Children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program), and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? Please call school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator to see if your child (ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
4. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.
5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at this toll free number () if you have questions.
6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving SNAP or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to:
Name:
Address:Phone Number:
There is a second of the secon
10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
11. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.
12. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.
13. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.
If you have other questions or need help, call
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono:
Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero:
Sincerely,
Signature
Position/Title

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

If your household receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List child(ren)'s name, school, grade, and a SNAP case number.

Part 2: Check the appropriate box, if any.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

Check the appropriate box and contact your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator.

Fill out application by following instructions for ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

If you are applying for a FOSTER CHILD, follow these instructions:

Part 1: Use a separate application for each foster child. List the child's name, school, and grade.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Check the box and list the child's personal use monthly income, if any.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List each child's name, school, and grade.

Part 2. Check the appropriate box, if any.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.

Column 1–Name: List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if you need to.

Column 2 – Gross income last month and how often it was received. Next to each person's name list each type of income received last month, and how often it was received. For example, Earnings from work: List the gross income each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions. The amount should be listed on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it (weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly). All other income: List the amount each person got last month from welfare, child support, alimony, (second column) pensions, retirement, Social Security (third column), and ALL OTHER INCOME SOURCES (fourth column). In the All Other column, include Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and ANY OTHER INCOME. Report net income for self-owned business, farm, or rental income. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative do not include this housing allowance.

Column 3–Check if no income: If the person does not have any income, check the box.

Part 5: An adult household member must sign the form and list his or her Social Security Number, or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FAMILY APPLICATION

Part 1. Children in School (Use a separate application for each foster child)						
Names of all children in school					any). Skip to Part 5 if	you list
(First, Middle Initial, Last)	School/Facility Na	ime	Grade	a SNAP* case		
Part 2. If the child you are applyi	_		r a runaw	-	-	
school, homeless liaison, migra	nt coordinator at p	hone #		Homeless L	Migrant 🔲 Runav	vay 🖵
Part 3. Foster Child	to the least conserve	7. 77.	. 16		a	Part III
If this application is for a child who amount of the child's personal use					this box u and then	list the
Part 4. Total Household Gross In	•		•			
	2. Gross income and					
				\$100/every other w	eek \$100/weekly	3. Check
	Earnings from work	Welfare, chi		Pensions, retirement,		if NO
in household) (Example)	before deductions	support, alin	nony	Social Security	All Other Income	income
Jane Smith	\$ <u>200/weekly</u>	\$150/weekl	у	\$100/monthly	\$/	
	\$/	\$ /	-	\$/	\$ /	
	\$/	\$/_		\$/	\$/	
	\$/	\$/_		\$/	\$/	
	\$/_	\$/_		\$/_	\$/	
	\$/	\$/_		\$/	\$/	
	\$/	\$/_		\$/	\$/	
	\$/	\$/_		\$/_	\$/	
	\$/	\$/_		\$/_	\$/	
Part 5. Signature and Social Sec	urity Number (Adu	lt must sigr	1)			
An adult household member must						
her Social Security Number or mar	k the "I do not have	a Social Se	curity Num	nber" box. (See Priva	acy Act Statement o	n the
back of this page.)						
I certify (promise) that all information						
will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I						
understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted. Sign here: X						
Address:						
Social Security Number: I do not have a Social Security Number						
Part 6. Children's ethnic and racial identities (optional)						
Choose one ethnicity:	Choose one or		dless of et	thnicity):		
☐ Hispanic/Latino	☐ Asian		☐ Ame	erican Indian or Alas	ska Native	
☐ Not Hispanic/Latino	■ White		Nat	ive Hawaiian or othe	er Pacific Islander	
☐ Black or African American						
Don't fill out this part. This is for school use only.						
Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24 Monthly x 12						
Total Income: Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household size:						
Categorical Eligibility: Date Withdrawn:Eligibility: Free Reduced Denied Reason:						
Determining Official's Signature: Date:						
Confirming Official's Signature: Date: Follow-up Official's Signature: Date:						

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART					
For School Year 2009-2010					
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly		
1	20,036	1,670	386		
2	26,955	2,247	519		
3	33,874	2,823	652		
4	40,793	3,400	785		
5	47,712	3,976	918		
6	54,631	4,553	1,051		
7	61,550	5,130	1,184		
8	68,469	5,706	1,317		
Each additional	6,919	577	134		
person:					

^{*} SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program)

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), case number or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, the law allows us to tell Medicaid that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to. Medicaid only uses the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children (Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance).

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

No! I DO NOT want information from my Application shared with Medicaid or the S	Free and Reduced Price School Meals State Children's Health Insurance Program.
If you checked no, fill out the form below.	
Child's Name:	School:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:
Printed Name:	
Address:	
For more information, you may call	at
Return this form to:	(Phone #)
at(Address)	

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

No! I DO NOT want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any programs.					
Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with					
	Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with				
	Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with				
If you checked yes to any or all of the boinformation will be shared only with the					
Child's Name:	School:				
Child's Name:	School:				
Child's Name:	School:				
Child's Name:	School:				
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:				
Printed Name:					
Address:					
For more information, you may call:					
Return this form to:					
Name :					
Address:					
by Date:					

WE MUST CHECK YOUR APPLICATION

You must send the information	we need, or contact	by
or your children will stop getting		(Date)
School:	Date:	
Dear	;	
We are checking your Free and sure only eligible children get fr	d Reduced Price School Meals Application. Federal rule ree or reduced price meals.	s require that we do this to make
You must send us information t	o prove that ginal papers. If you do send originals, they will be sent b	are eligible
f possible, send copies, not ori	ginal papers. If you do send originals, they will be sent b	ack to you only if you ask.
1.If you were receiving benefits fror meals, or at any time since then, se	m the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) whe end us a copy of one of these:	en you applied for free or reduced price
 SNAP Certification Notice that Letter from SNAP or Welfare Do not send your EBT card 	Office that says you have received SNAP benefits.	
2. If you get this letter for a hon coordinator] for help.	neless, migrant or runaway child, please contact [school,	, homeless liaison, or migrant
3. If the child is a Foster Child: Sen	nd us official documentation from the agency sponsoring the chi	ld.
4. If you do not receive SNAP f	or your children:	
A. Write name and Social Sec	curity Number of each adult household member below.	
	0 110 7 11 1	No Social
Name	Social Security Number (See Privacy Act Statement, page 2)	Security Number
		Namber
		_ 🗖
		_ 🔲
		_ 🔲
		_ 🗖

B. Send this page along with papers that show the amount of money your household gets from each source of income.

School	School Addr	ress
Acceptable papers include:		
Jobs: Paycheck stub or pay envelope that shows the employer stating gross wages and how often they are tax books.		
Social Security, Pensions, or Retirement: Social S received, or pension award notice.	Security retirement bene	efit letter, statement of benefits
Unemployment, Disability, or Worker's Comp: No check stub, or letter from Worker's Compensation.	tice of eligibility from Si	tate employment security office,
Welfare Payments: Benefit letter from welfare agend	cy.	
Child Support or Alimony: Court decree, agreemer	nt, or copies of checks I	received.
Other income (such as rental income): Information is received, and the date received.	n that shows the amour	nt of income received, how often it
No income: A brief note explaining how you provide you expect an income.	food, clothing and hous	sing for your household, and when
Military Housing Privatization Initiative : Letter or Military Housing Privatization Initiative.	rental contract showing	ng that your housing is part of the
Timeframe of Acceptable Income Documentation that you applied for benefits. If you do not have this application up to time of verification.	• •	The state of the s
If you have questions or need help, please call		at
The call is free.	Name	Toll Free Phone Number
Signature		

Privacy Act Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of all adult household members. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

WE HAVE CHECKED YOUR APPLICATION

Sc	hool:	D	Date:
De	ear	:	
	e checked the information you sent us e or reduced price meals and have de		are eligible for
	Your children's eligibility has not char	inged.	
	Starting your childre because your income is within the free		
	Starting your children because your income is over the limit breakfast.		nged from free to reduced price for lunch and \$ for
	Starting your child following reason(s):	dren are no longer eligible for fr	ee or reduced price meals for the
ho	Records show that you did not remarked. Records show that the child(ren) Your income is over the limit for you did not provide: You did not respond to our requestals cost \$for lunch and susehold size goes up, you may apply a ked to do so if you reapply.) is not homeless, runaway, or mi free or reduced price meals. est. \$for breakfast. If your h	grant. nousehold income goes down or your
lf ν	ou disagree with this decision, you ma	av discuss it with	
at	Telephone Num		Name/TitleYou also have the right to a fair
he	aring. If you request a hearing by	mber , your children v	will continue to receive free or
	duced price meals until the decision of		
	Name	,	Phone Number
		Address	
<u>~</u>			
SIQ	gnature		

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NOTICE TO HOUSESHOLDS OF APPROVAL/DENIAL OF BENEFITS

Dear	
Your application for free or reduced price meals for your	our children has been:
Approved for free meals	
Approved for reduced price meals at \$_	for lunch, \$for breakfast and \$or snack
Approved temporarily for free meal)(s) based on zero i for an extension of eligibility.	income. Reapplication must be made on(Date)
Denied for the following reason(s):	
Income over the allowable amount	
Incomplete application	
Other:	
If you do not agree with the decision, you may discuss If you wish to review the decision further, you have the following official:	it with the school. right to a Fair Hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the
Name:	
Address:	
Toll Free/Collect/Local Phone Number:	
If you are not eligible now but have a decrease in hous size, fill out an application at that time.	sehold income, become unemployed or have an increase in family
Sincerely,	
Name	Title
Date	

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINE Reduced Price For School Year 2009-2010 Household size Yearly Monthly Weekly 20,036 1,670 386 1 2 2,247 519 26,955 3 33,874 2,823 652 40,793 3,400 785 4 5 47,712 3,976 918 6 54,631 4,553 1,051 61,550 5,130 1,184 8 68,469 5,706 1,317 Each additional person: 6,919 577 134

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINE				
Free				
For	r School Year 2009	9-2010		
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	
1	14,079	1,174	271	
2	18,941	1,579	365	
3	23,803	1,984	458	
4	28,665	2,389	552	
5	33,527	2,794	645	
6	38,389	3,200	739	
7	43,251	3,605	832	
8	48,113	4,010	926	
Each additional person:	4,862	406	94	